

HAGERSTOWN LANDMARKS RECONNAISSANCE SURVEY

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties # WA-HAG-172

Property Name/Address: Western Maryland Railway complex, Burhans Blvd. vicinity,
Hagerstown, Maryland

Description/Significance: The railroad industry exerted a profoundly significant effect on the physical, economic, and social development of Hagerstown in the late 19th and early 20th century. The Western Maryland Railway complex represents a high point in the development of the industry. The approximately 47-acre site comprises an extensive complex of brick and steel structures constructed between 1884 and 1940. The complex comprises five principal contributing resources, including a 25-stall steam locomotive roundhouse, transfer table, two large erecting and repair structures, and an office building; in addition, a variety of subsidiary structures are located on the property. The great majority of the structures were in place before 1926. The roundhouse, whose initial construction took place before 1904, is considered the oldest and largest example of its type in the eastern United States.

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

- I. Geographic Organization: Western Maryland
- II. Chronological/Developmental Period(s):
 - Industrial/Urban Dominance, 1870-1930
 - Modern period, 1930-present
- III. Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme(s):
 - Transportation
- IV. Resource Type
 - Category: District
 - Historic Environment: Urban
 - Historic Function(s) and Use(s):
 - TRANSPORTATION/rail-related
 - Known Design Source: Unknown

Form Prepared by: Peter E. Kurtze
109 Brandon Road
Baltimore, Maryland 21212
June 30, 1992

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MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

- I. Geographic Organization: Western Maryland
- II. Chronological/Developmental Period(s):
 - Industrial/Urban Dominance, 1870-1930
 - Modern period, 1930-present
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Form Prepared by: Peter E. Kurtze
109 Brandon Road
Baltimore, Maryland 21212
August 15, 1991

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. WA-HAG-172

Magi No.

DOE ___yes ___no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Western Maryland Railway complex

and/or common

2. Location

street & number east of Burhans Blvd. n/a not for publication

city, town Hagerstown ___ vicinity of congressional district

state Maryland county Washington

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name

street & number telephone no.:

city, town state and zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Washington County Courthouse liber

street & number 95 West Washington Street folio

city, town Hagerstown state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title n/a

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

pository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. WA-HAG-172

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE COUNT: 5

Located east of Burhans Boulevard in the western portion of Hagerstown, the Western Maryland Railway maintenance yards occupy an approximately 47-acre site and comprise an extensive complex of brick and steel structures constructed between 1884 and 1940. The complex comprises five principal contributing resources, including a 25-stall steam locomotive roundhouse, transfer table, two large erecting and repair structures, and an office building; in addition, a variety of subsidiary structures are located on the property.

The focus of the complex is a 25-stall steam locomotive roundhouse with a 165-degree arc and a 220' radius, whose initial construction took place prior to 1904. Located to the south of the roundhouse are a machine and erecting shop, built in 1907, a transfer table begun prior to 1910, and a repair shop constructed in 1913. Both of the shop buildings were considerably expanded before 1926. A brick office building was also constructed opposite the roundhouse before 1910.

Additional descriptive information and analysis of the evolution of the complex are provided in Section 8.

8. Significance

Survey No. WA-HAG-172

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1884-ca. 1940 Builder/Architect unknown

check: Applicable Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or
Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G
Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Western Maryland Railway maintenance complex is significant under criterion A for its association with the railroad industry in Hagerstown; this industry exerted a profound effect on the physical, economic, and social development of the city in the late 19th and early 20th century, and the Western Maryland Railway complex represents a high point in its development. The approximately 47-acre site, developed over the period between 1884 and about 1940, comprises an extensive complex of brick and steel structures. These include a ca. 1904 25-stall steam locomotive roundhouse, and numerous related structures, the great majority of which were in place before 1926. The complex derives additional significance under criterion C for the roundhouse, considered the oldest and largest example of its type in the eastern United States.¹

The Western Maryland Railway yards were established in 1884, with the construction of a two-bay brick locomotive house.² At that time, Elizabeth Street terminated at the railroad tracks, and the engine shed was located on the opposite side of the tracks, at the foot of the street. This became the hub of a small complex which included company offices, a sand house, and two small outbuildings by the end of the 19th century.³ Other evidence of the company's presence in Hagerstown included a passenger station which had been opened on North Potomac Street, northeast of Fairground Avenue, by 1892.

Inspired by the city's central location, the company began an extensive development of repair facilities in Hagerstown around the turn of the century. By 1904, a large semicircular brick structure had been completed east of the early locomotive house; served by a turntable, this one-story, 165-degree structure had a 220' radius, and comprised a nine-stall roundhouse, a five-bay mechanical shop, and a blacksmith shop. The new facilities also included a 1½-story frame building housing offices, a storehouse, and an oil room, as well as two separate one-story outbuildings and a small engine shed.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. WA-HAG-172

See Notes, Section 8, Page 4

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property approx. 47 acresQuadrangle name Hagerstown, MDQuadrangle scale 1:24000UTM References do NOT complete UTM referencesA

Zone	Easting				Northing				

B

Zone	Easting				Northing				

C

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Peter E. Kurtze

organization

date June 30, 1992street & number 109 Brandon Roadtelephone (410) 296-7538city or town Baltimorestate MD 21212

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCI
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
301-514-7600

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 2

WA-HAG-172
Western Maryland Railway Complex

The company officially relocated its Maryland division shops to Hagerstown in 1906, when the Superintendent's office was moved to the city from Baltimore. The major elements of the complex date from the first quarter of the twentieth century, reflecting a period of accelerated development of the Western Maryland Railway in the region. A large one-story machine and erecting shop had been added south of the roundhouse in 1907; it is shown on the 1910 Sanborn Map as fourteen bays wide, constructed of brick with pilastered walls and an iron-trussed roof. A transfer table pit was located north of the shop; a two-story brick office building stood to the northeast of the transfer table. A separate blacksmith shop, and several small buildings including a foundry and carpenter shop had been built to the south of the machine and erecting shop. The roundhouse reportedly achieved its full, 25-bay capacity by 1909.⁴

Development of the yards during this period stimulated growth of the surrounding neighborhood. Before 1910, Elizabeth Street was extended across the railroad tracks and renamed Elizabeth Avenue.

Expansion of service westward to Cumberland and the Pittsburgh area resulted in a comprehensive upgrading of Western Maryland Railway facilities which the company called the "1912 Improvement Program." The 1913 Classical-influenced station on Burhans Boulevard is one product of this program in Hagerstown. The repair and construction facilities were further expanded as well. In 1913, a large 10-bay repair shop was added off the south end of the roundhouse, north of the transfer table. By the date of preparation of the 1918 edition of the Sanborn Map, several of the buildings south of the blacksmith shop had been replaced; a larger pipe shop was built on the site of the former foundry, and new woodworking and electric shops were in place at the southern extreme of the property. A machine shop was located northeast of the office building.

By 1926, both the 1907 (south) and the 1913 (north) shops had been expanded in width, and both now served erecting functions. A sandblasting and paint shop had been constructed of brick against the east end of the south shop, and a mallet erecting and cab shop had been added to the west end of the north shop. A clerestory had been added to the roundhouse, and machine shops and a fan and pump house had been constructed against its northwestern circumference. A coaling station had been added to the north portion of the complex, and several one-story frame outbuildings served various storage and office functions. A two-story addition to the office building, of fireproof reinforced concrete and brick construction, was made in 1924 to accommodate stock rooms, replacing an open storage shed and platform.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 3

WA-HAG-172
Western Maryland Railway Complex

The complex had essentially achieved its full extent by the 1920s, at which point the Western Maryland Railway was becoming the largest employer in Hagerstown. The most significant changes between 1926 and the last revision of the Sanborn Map forty years later were the removal of the coaling station and the addition of a series of fuel oil tanks, reflecting changes in engine technology from coal-fired to diesel. In 1940 a new 115'-diameter turntable was installed, and the facility was dedicated solely to the maintenance of steam engines.

In the World War II era, the Fairchild Aircraft plant superseded the Western Maryland Railway as Hagerstown's largest employer.

Following the acquisition of the Western Maryland line by the Chessie System in the 1970s, the Hagerstown shops were closed, and maintenance was concentrated at the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad's facility in Cumberland.

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 4

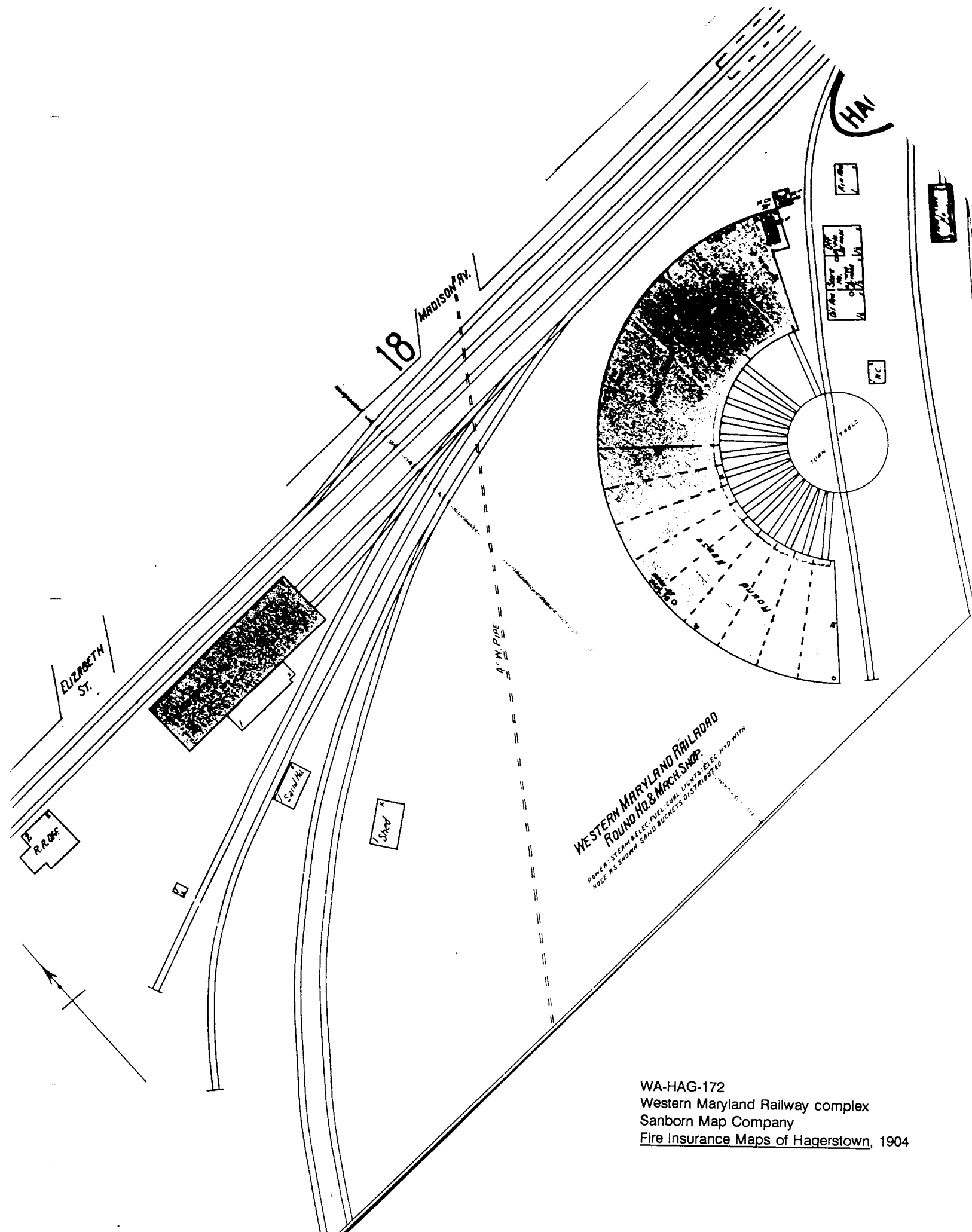
WA-HAG-172
Western Maryland Railway Complex

Notes:

1. Memorandum, Susan C. Salvatore to Stephen M. Feller, October 13, 1989. This memo contains a chronological outline of operations at the complex, which was especially useful in preparing the present report.
2. A ca. 1886 photograph of this structure is in the collection of the Maryland State Archives, Annapolis (Acc. No. SC 1477-5982).
3. The following discussion of the development of the Western Maryland Railway complex is derived from Sanborn Maps of Hagerstown, available at the Library of Congress or on microfilm at the Maryland State Archives; see Sanborn Map Company, Fire Insurance Maps of Hagerstown, Maryland. New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1892, 1897, 1904, 1910, 1918, 1926.
4. Save the Round House Committee, Concept Outline -- Proposed Turn of the Century Railroad Village and Working Roundhouse Museum Concept, August 1988, manuscript on file at City of Hagerstown Department of Planning.

Also see the following sources:

- Cook, Roger and Carl Zimmermann. The Western Maryland Railway: Fireballs and Black Diamonds. San Diego, CA: Howell-North Books.
- Killough, Edward M. History of the Western Maryland Railway. Baltimore: Western Maryland Railway, 1940.
- Williams, Harold A. The Western Maryland Railway Story. Baltimore: Western Maryland Railway, 1952.



WESTERN MARYLAND RAILROAD
ROUND HO & MACH. SHOP.

POWER: STEAM & ELEC. FUEL: COAL. LIGHTS: ELEC. HAD WITH
HOSE & SHOWN SAND BUCKETS DISTRIBUTED.

WA-HAG-172
Western Maryland Railway complex
Sanborn Map Company
Fire Insurance Maps of Hagerstown, 1904

LE ROY

N

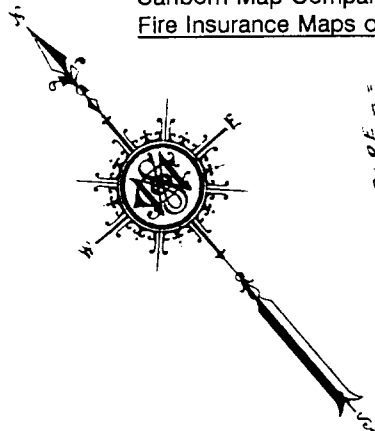
48'

53

**WESTERN MARYLAND R.R.
ROUND HO. & REPAIR SHOP**

POWER - STEAM & ELECTRIC - HEAT - STEAM - LIGHTS
ELECTRIC - FUEL - COAL - CITY WATER - HYDS. &
12" HOSE IN ROUND HO. & STORE RM -
CHEMICAL EXTSRS. DISTRIBUTED

WA-HAG-172
Western Maryland Railway complex
Sanborn Map Company
Fire Insurance Maps of Hagerstown, 1910



4" W. PIPE

FREIGHT CAR REPAIR SHOP
EARTH FLOOR
STORE RM. OFF.

ENGINE REPAIRING
(WOOD WORK)

BL. SM.
EARTH FLOOR

TURN TABLE

ROUND HO.
(9 STALLS)

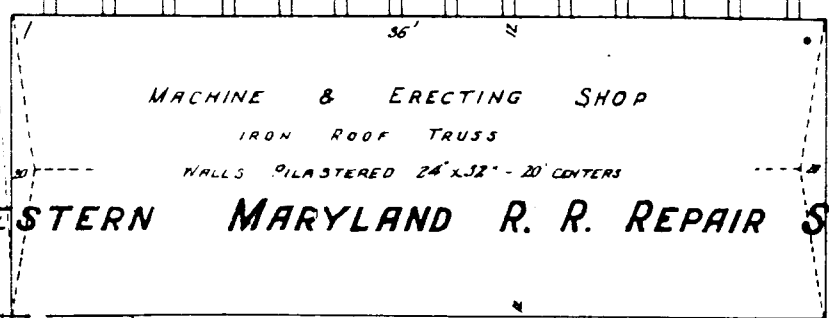
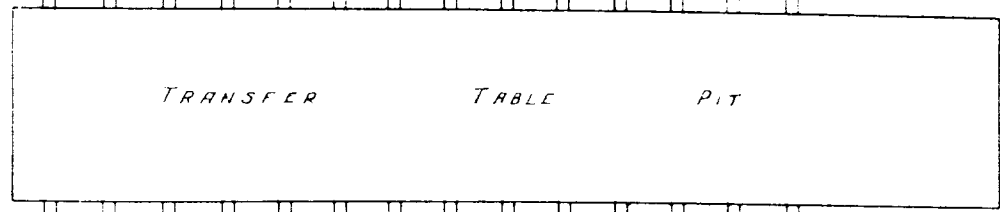
B & O CONNECTION

STEEL IRON PLATFORM

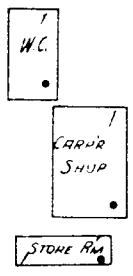
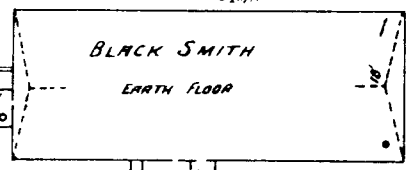
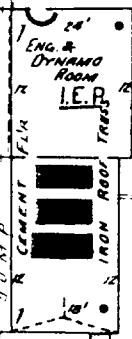
JULY 1910
HAGERSTOWN
 MD.



R E P A I R T R A C K S



WESTERN MARYLAND R. R. REPAIR SHOPS

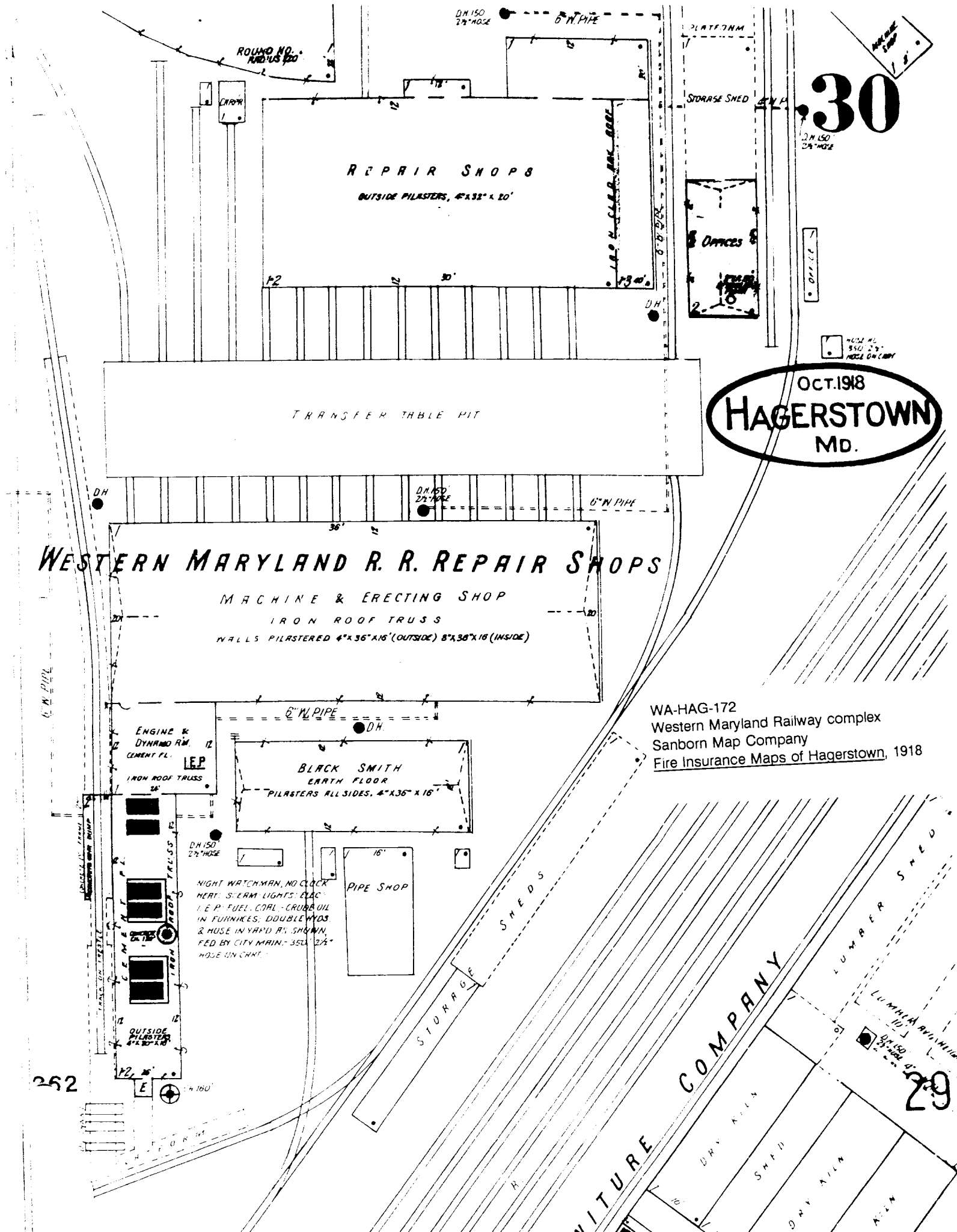


4 GR. KITCHMAN - NO CLOCK HEAT STEAM-
 LIGHTS ELEC. I.E.P. FUEL COAL, CRUDE OIL IN
 FURNACES - 3 3/4" GLE HYDRANTS IN YARD 113
 SHOWN FED BY 6" CITY MAIN 350' 71" HOSE ON CART

2A

WA-HAG-172
 Western Maryland Railway complex
 Sanborn Map Company
 Fire Insurance Maps of Hagerstown, 1910





30

OCT. 1918
HAGERSTOWN
MD.

WA-HAG-172
Western Maryland Railway complex
Sanborn Map Company
Fire Insurance Maps of Hagerstown, 1918

WESTERN MARYLAND R. R. REPAIR SHOPS

MACHINE & ERECTING SHOP
IRON ROOF TRUSS
WALLS PILASTERED 4"x36"x16" (OUTSIDE) 8"x36"x16" (INSIDE)

REPAIR SHOPS
OUTSIDE PILASTERED, 4"x32"x20'

TRANSFER TABLE PIT

BLACK SMITH
EARTH FLOOR
PILASTERED ALL SIDES, 4"x36"x16'

ENGINE & DYNAMO RM.
CEMENT FL.
IRON ROOF TRUSS

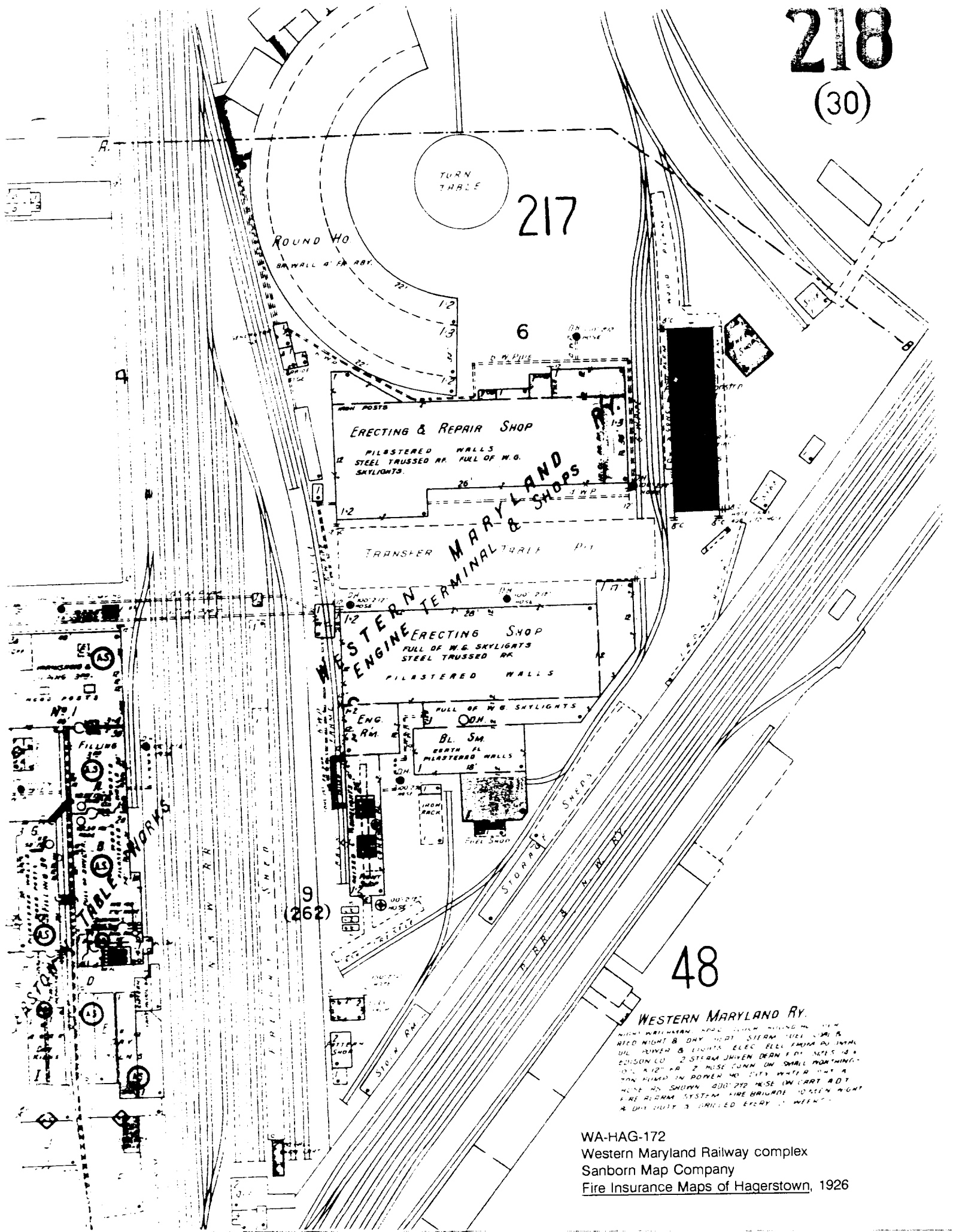
PIPE SHOP

NIGHT WATCHMAN, NO CLOCK
HEAT, STEAM LIGHTS, ELEC.
I.E.P. FUEL, COAL - CRUBAUL
IN FURNACES; DOUBLE WYDS.
& HOSE IN YARD AS SHOWN
FED BY CITY MAIN - 35L' 2 1/2"
HOSE IN CHNT.

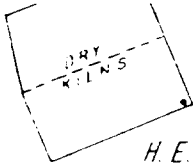
OUTSIDE
PILASTERED
4"x36"x16'

252

29



WA-HAG-172
Western Maryland Railway complex
Sanborn Map Company
Fire Insurance Maps of Hagerstown, 1926



H.E. BESTER QUARRY WORKS
CONCRETE BLOCK MAKING

NIGHT WATCHMAN DURING WINTER NO CLOCK
BURNER STAYS LIGHTS OFF

STONE QUARRY

4
(236)

WA-HAG-172
Western Maryland Railway complex
Sanborn Map Company
Fire Insurance Maps of Hagerstown, 1926

WESTERN MARYLAND RY.
ENGINE TERMINALS & SHOPS

For Report See Sheet No. 218

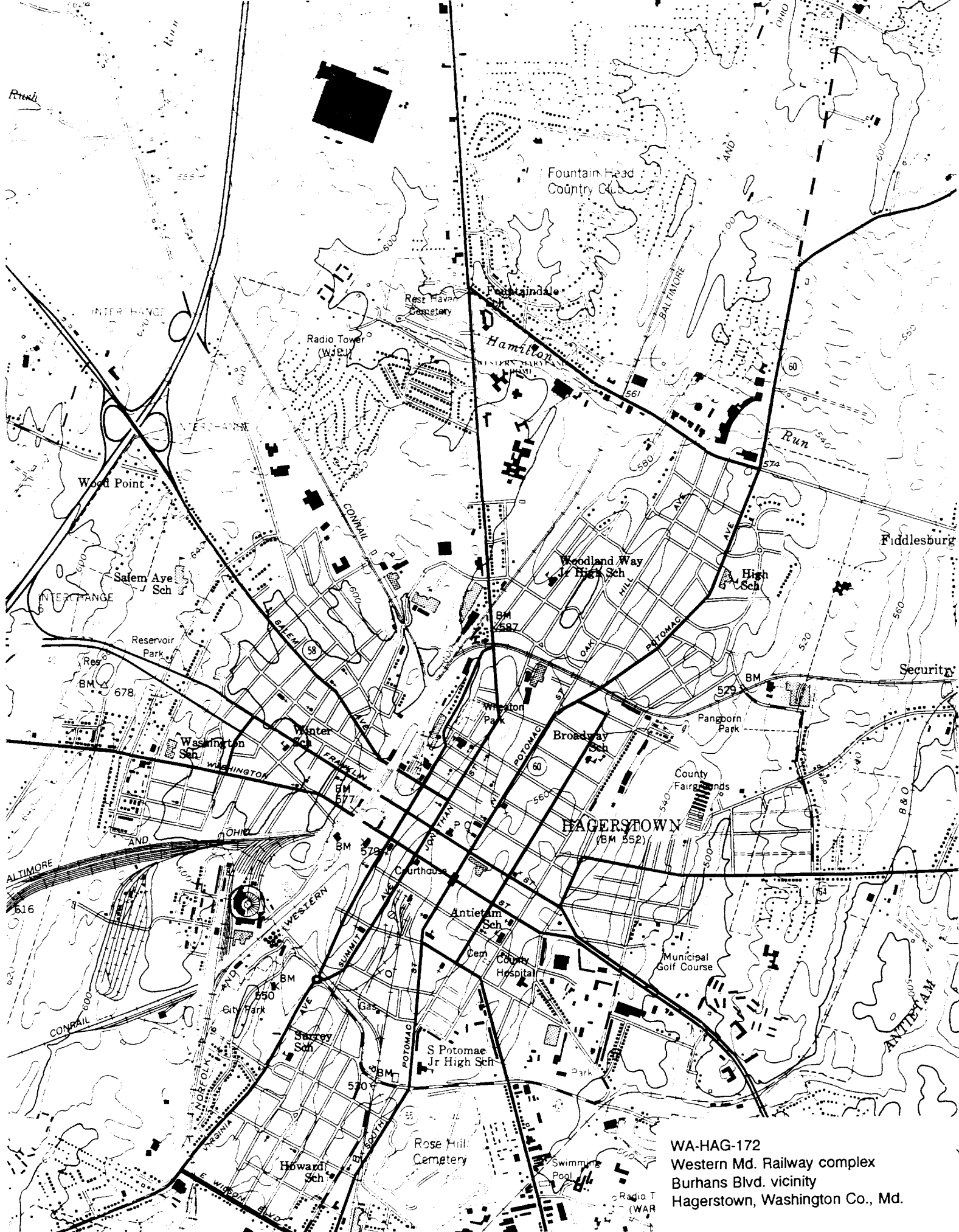
Round Hb.

6
(263)

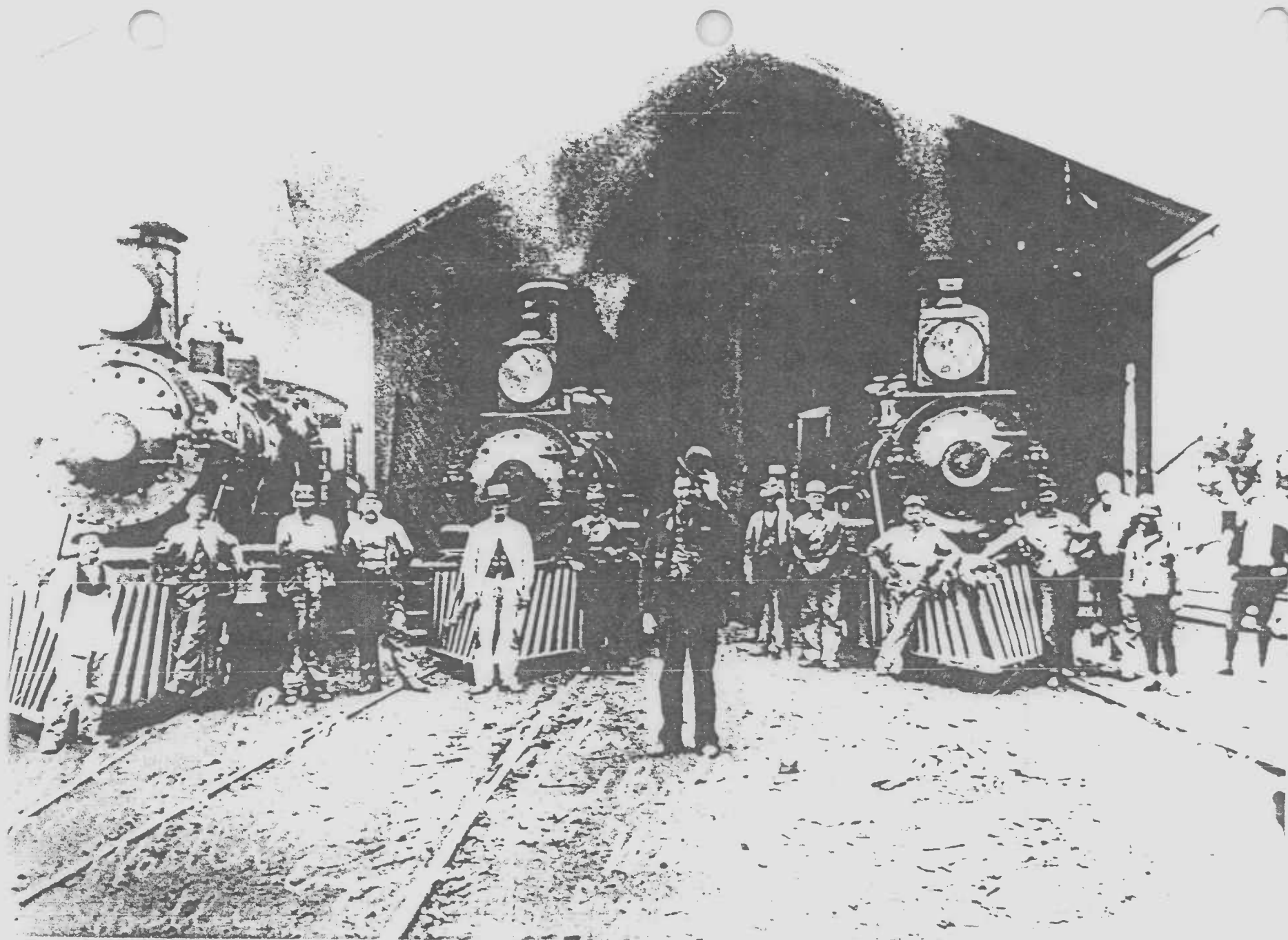
218

5
(263)

CENTER



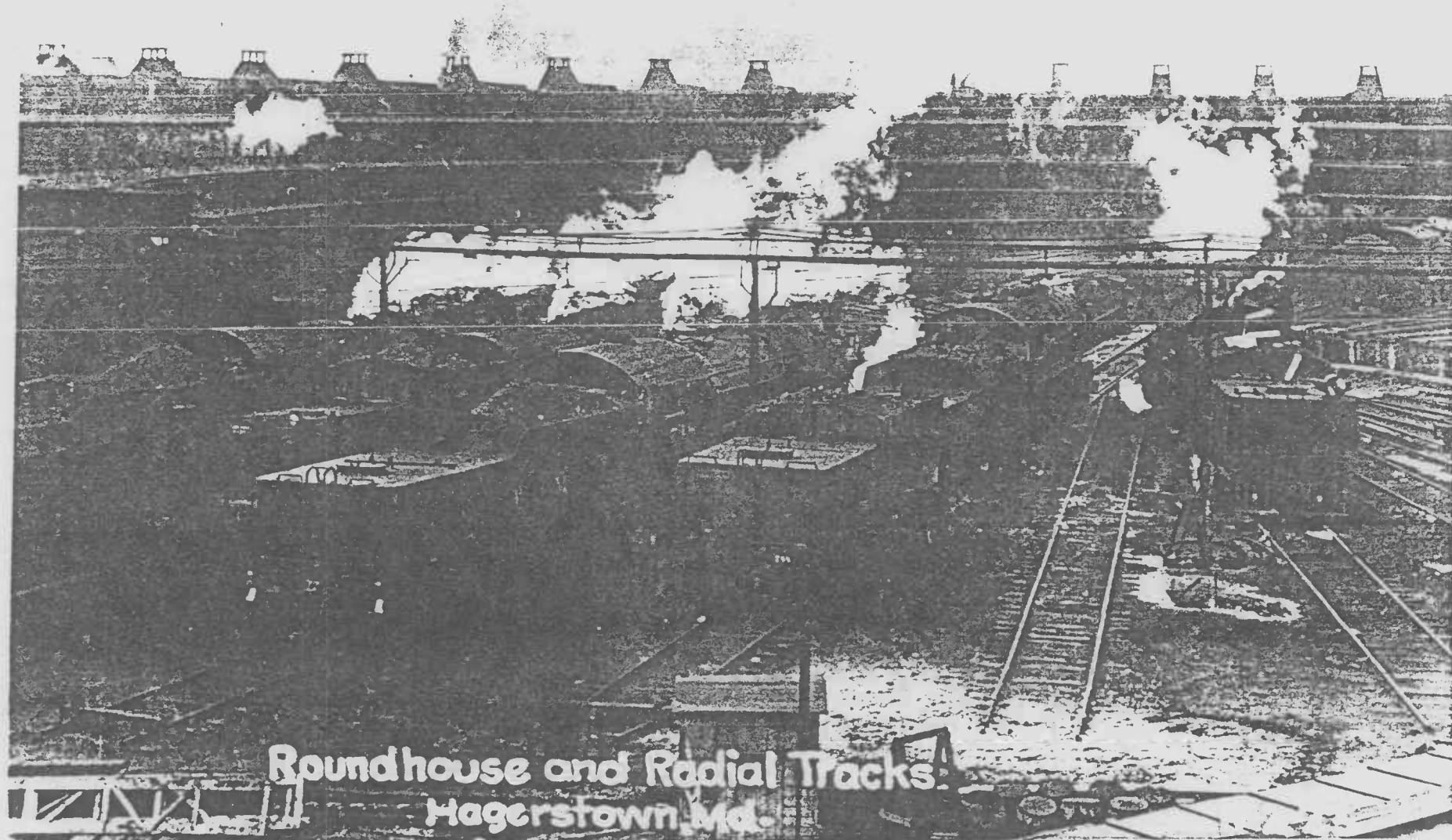
WA-HAG-172
 Western Md. Railway complex
 Burhans Blvd. vicinity
 Hagerstown, Washington Co., Md.



WA-HAG-172
Western Maryland Railway complex
Locomotive house, ca. 1886
Md. State Archives #SC 1477-5982



WA-HAG-172
Western Maryland Railway complex
Postcard view, date unknown
Md. State Archives #SC 1477-6007



Roundhouse and Radial Tracks
Hagerstown, Md.

WA-HAG-172
Western Maryland Railway complex
Roundhouse and Radial Tracks, 1923
Md. State Archives #SC 1477-6558



WA-HAG-172

WESTERN MD. RAILWAY COMPLEX

HAGERSTOWN MD

7/91 P. KURTZE

ROUNDHOUSE, VIEW FROM NORTHEAST



WA-HAG-172

WESTERN MARYLAND RAILWAY COMPLEX

HAGERSTOWN, WASHINGTON CO., MD.

PHOTO BY DALE, 12/84

NEG AT MHT

AERIAL VIEW FROM SOUTHEAST